

withdrew from active work without, as a rule, resigning and set to work to form a new society. This was scarcely said than done, and the result is the New York Society of Medical Jurisprudence, a report of whose proceedings at the first meeting is given in other columns of the JOURNAL. The membership is already more than one hundred. This activity in New York is the more remarkable when we recall that in Great Britain there is not a single medico-legal society ; in France but one ; in Italy one now in process of organization ; and in America but two previous to the formation of this, the third.

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DR. EDWARD C. SEGUIN.

AT a stated meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, held November 16, 1882, the following preamble and resolutions, reported by a committee appointed by the President at a former meeting, were unanimously adopted :

*Whereas*, Dr. E. C. Seguin, an honored fellow of this Academy, has been stricken with a domestic calamity so overwhelming as to paralyze him with despair, and so heart-rending as to command universal compassion ; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Academy of Medicine offers to Dr. Seguin the expression of its profound and respectful sympathy and commiseration.

*Resolved*, That while the Academy regards with solicitude the effect which this tragic bereavement may have upon a useful and brilliant career, it will cherish the hope that Dr. Seguin may recover the spirit and the strength to return to his home and to take up his work in the sphere in which he has already achieved wide and well-merited renown.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions, signed by the President and Secretary of the Society, be forwarded to Dr. Seguin, and be published in the medical journals of this city.

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TRANCE AND SEA-SICKNESS.

PROF. EDWARD D. THWING, in a paper recently read before the New York Academy of Sciences, proposed to treat sea-sickness

by producing in the patient the trance state. During a recent voyage he put this idea into practice, and details a number of experiments in which he was successful in relieving nausea and other distressing symptoms. The experiment probably is novel so far as relates to sea-sickness, though this affection is but one of the multitude of ills for the abolition of which the hypnotic state may be employed. Prof. Thwing also hypnotized subjects and produced the customary surgical anæsthesia, seemingly unaware that the same had been done systematically in hundreds of cases, notably by Esdaille, who reports operations even as severe as amputations performed upon patients placed in the hypnotic condition.

Prof. Thwing, as reported, is quoted as speaking "earnestly of the domination of one will over another." We had hoped that nonsense of this kind had ceased, at least in scientific circles, for if there is one thing settled in modern times in regard to hypnotism, it is that the condition is a subjective and not an objective one. In other words, if the subject goes into the hypnotic condition it is not due to the domination of the will of the operator, but rather to the special condition of the subject, who, so to speak, has the hypnotic diathesis. And herein lies a great drawback to the employment of hypnotism as a therapeutic measure. Few have the hypnotic diathesis, just as few have consumption, cancer, or other diseases. The therapeutic applicability of hypnotism is therefore limited, and we doubt if the advantages gained justify us in cultivating this diathesis, either in those in whom it is easily provoked or in those in whom it does not exist but may be created. Prof. Thwing's experiments rest then as another contribution to the long line of efforts that have been attempted to make available the hypnotic condition as a curative measure in medicine. And while no one doubts the verity of the hypnotic phenomena, one main objection at least to attempts of this kind is to be found in the uncertainty of the means employed.

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THE post-mortem examination of the body of Dr. George M. Beard, who died in this city on Tuesday, January third, revealed

that death was due to embolic pneumonia, originating in an abscess of the upper maxilla. A large portion of the right lung was consolidated. The left lung was of a dark color, soft, and would soon have become gangrenous. The abscess of the upper maxilla was due to a diseased tooth.

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GEN. SPINOLA has lately presented in the New York Assembly a bill authorizing the creation of Commissioners in Lunacy in every county in the State, said commissioners to be chosen only from physicians in reputable standing, who have been in practice at least twelve years.

New York City, under the provisions of the bill, would be favored with three commissioners appointed by the mayor, and receiving an annual salary of \$5,000 each. According to *The Medical Record*, the entire number of such officers for the State would amount to one hundred and eighty.

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*Veluti in speculum.* Would the neurologist see himself reflected in a mirror of public opinion, he may peruse the following account of an examination of a paraplegic, penned by an editorial writer in a recent number of the *New York Tribune*.

A man in Port Jervis, N. Y., in December last was caught between two cars and was taken home in a helpless condition, apparently paralyzed from the waist down. He was also laboring under the weight of two additional misfortunes. He had taken out several accident insurance policies, and he is said to have had an unfavorable reputation. For both he did ample penance. He was held to be shamming, and scientific investigation was set at work. "Needles were thrust to the bone in his limbs, and deep incisions were made with lances. He submitted to these tests twenty-eight different times without evincing the slightest physical pain." The scientific investigators, not being satisfied, wished to administer anæsthetics, so that the control of the nerves might be destroyed, but the subject refused his consent. At this point one doctor, whose curiosity was sated, withdrew, believing the man's lower extremities to be really paralyzed and without feeling, a conclusion that appears highly reasonable. But more inquisitive scientists arrived in the interests of the insurance com-

pany. They applied a powerful current from a galvanic battery. There were two results, "a slight upward motion of one big toe," and "the burning of the flesh deeply" by a portion of the wire which was uncovered. A "bottle of boiling water" and a piece of ice were then passed up and down the patient's legs, but he said that he felt no sensation of heat or cold. "For the next test the doctor took a pair of sharp-pointed dividers or calipers, and, spreading them apart, thrust one point in the subject's leg and made a deep circle in the flesh with the other. This was done in several places. The patient did not wince under the test." The scientific investigators declined to say what they thought of the result. Neither are the thoughts of the patient chronicled.

It is to be regretted that the doctors said nothing, because it would be pleasant to know that scientific curiosity was for once fully satisfied. Probably this will not occur, however, until the man's lower extremities have been cremated in a blast furnace or run through a stamp mill.

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WITH the new year some of our valued exchanges come to us in new improved dress. Monthlies have been converted into weeklies, and weeklies have enlarged their pages. Prominent among the alterations referred to, we note that in *The Medical Record*, published by William Wood & Co., of New York. The size of the *Record's* sheet is enlarged nearly fifty per cent., and we are promised two hundred additional pages a year of reading matter; the quarto shape gives place to a broad and long page, which presents a most attractive feature.

A series of articles, under the general heading of "Practice of Medicine," by American authors, is promised, and as a guaranty of their appearance a list of the authors is given. The *Record* is under the able editorial management of Dr. G. F. Shrady. It has never appeared to better advantage.

*The New York Medical Journal* (monthly), published by D. Appleton & Co., has become a weekly. Vol. xxxvii., No. 1, is referred to as "A Weekly Review of Medicine." The new weekly presents a most creditable appearance; like the *Record* its pages are large and double-columned. The *Journal* was excel-

lent as a monthly—it is better as a weekly. Dr. F. P. Foster continues in editorial control.

The *Medical News*, published by Henry C. Lea's Son & Co., of Philadelphia, retains its former size and shape, unwarned, probably, of the intentions of its two powerful New York rivals.

*Gaillard's Medical Journal* (monthly), formerly *The Richmond and Louisville Medical Journal*, has undergone still another transformation, and now comes to us in the form of an enterprising weekly, entitled *The American Medical Weekly*. We notice that one of our ablest contributors and co-workers, Dr. Jas. G. Kiernan, of Chicago, takes charge of a prominent feature of the *Journal*, viz., "Original Abstracts." The change bespeaks success.

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#### CEREBRAL HYPERÆMIA.

In a recent lecture on "Brain Health," at Edinburgh, Dr. J. Batty Tuke, referring to loss of sleep, said that it was brought about thus: When the brain was being actively exercised, there was an increase of blood in its vessels—this was spoken of as a "functional hyperæmia." If the exercise of the brain powers was too long continued, there was a tendency for the blood to remain in too great quantity, from the cells becoming exhausted and not being able to control the vessels. In sleep the amount of blood was diminished, and sleep could not be procured if this functional hyperæmia persisted. In the absence of sleep, the cells could not recover themselves, and their activity became impaired. Headache, loss of appetite, and general listlessness followed.

Similar views to these expressed by Dr. J. Batty Tuke have been held and widely promulgated in this country during the last ten years. They have been subjected, however, to much and sometimes violent adverse criticism.

In a recent meeting of the Academy of Medicine a prominent member cynically referred to that "great delusion, cerebral hyperæmia."

But Voisin in his recent work and Luys in a work just published, have based their entire doctrine of the pathology of insanity